

Global Grants Community Assessment Addendum for GG1876442 – Teacher Training, Rakhu, Nepal

As editing of the Global Grants Community Assessment Results form is restricted, this document is submitted as a supplement to further explain the process in respect of this application.

Community Assessment by Quality Education Nepal and its service provider LEARN is not a separate exercise for each individual project. It is a continuing process that began prior to our first introduction of teacher training in Western Nepal in 2011. This was a project by the Rotary Club of Woodend, District 9800, for 40 teachers of Shikha District, partly funded by a Foundation District Grant.

Since then, Quality Education Nepal and Mr Krishna Pun as its representative in Nepal have been addressing the training needs not just of each small group of teachers for the next project, but of the 100,000 teachers working in Government schools throughout Nepal.

The starting point was the work over more than a decade of the Australian Himalayan Foundation, the NZ and UK Himalayan Trusts and others in fostering the establishment of the NGO “Rural Education and Environment Development” (REED) to train teachers in the Solu Khumbu and other parts of Eastern Nepal.

QEN engaged REED to deliver its training programs in Western Nepal until REED could no longer provide those services. This led to the establishment of LEARN in 2014 following a thorough search for alternative service providers which yielded no satisfactory result.

LEARN has been working ever since with local communities and Government at all levels to better understand the needs for teacher training and how these can be most effectively met.

The Global Grants Community Assessment Results form has been completed in the format required by the Foundation. This document is offered to provide supplementary information in relation to the ongoing process. It describes a particular example of how LEARN’s service offerings have been adapted to better satisfy community needs.

Introduction of “Awake and Shine” English Readers to LEARN training programs

In June 2017 members of the Rotary Clubs of Benalla (D9790) and Bairnsdale (D9820) became aware of LEARN delivering teacher training in Western Nepal through an article in the magazine Rotary Downunder.

The clubs had been supporting the Awake and Shine school which serves an expatriate Nepalese community in northern India for around a decade. Margot Sherwill, Benalla Rotarian, school principal and highly experienced literacy teacher, saw the opportunity for readers to improve the teaching of English literacy in the school. Over two years she developed a set of 144 readers conforming to the education system of Victoria, Australia but illustrated with vivid photos of village life in Northern India. The readers were designed for progressive use over four years from Prep to Grade 3. The two clubs arranged printing of seven sets of readers in two formats – A3 for classroom use, and smaller for children.

In April 2018 LEARN trainers attended a training course in India, delivered by Margot and her colleague Ula Sheather of the Rotary Club of Bairnsdale, in the use of the readers. They were very impressed with their suitability for use in Nepal and were given two complete sets (2 x 144 titles) for trial adoption. These have since been in use in two schools which Ula Sheather visited Nepal in February 2019 to assess progress.

The result has been the conclusion that the readers are ideal for inclusion in LEARN training programs. As their cost is substantial (US\$800 per set) the budget has been developed assuming that sets will be supplied to the 11 largest of the sixteen schools in the program. The decision was made on the basis that sets will also be provided to the five smaller schools if the budget contingency allows.